

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00

IO-13 /056 W

-----171559Z 116036 /40

P R 171445Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8013

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 2826

MONTREAL FOR USDEL ICAO

ROME FOR RCAA.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SA

SUBJECT: AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 79947

1. WE DELIVERED TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S LETTER WELCOMING BILATERAL AIR TALKS TO CAD DIRECTOR ABDULLAH MAHDI APRIL 17. MAHDI SEEMED GRATIFIED BY OUR ANSWER AND PROPOSED THAT CAD OFFICIALS PROCEED TO WASHINGTON FOR PROPOSED PRELIMINARY TALKS DURING APRIL 24-30 PERIOD.

2. MAHDI DID NOT, HOWEVER, COMMIT CAD TO GRANTING TWA'S REQUEST FOR SERVICE TO DHAHRAN. HE SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND ON STUDY OF OUR LETTER AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION.

3. MAHDI EXPRESSED STRONG DISAGREEMENT WITH OUR EFFORTS

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TO GET SAUDI TO JOIN SERVICES WIHT OTHER CARRIERS. (WE HAVE IT FROM TWA SOURCES THAT CAUSE FOR CAD'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT OUR PORPOSED APRIL 19-20 DATES WAS MAHDI'S NEGATIVE REACTION TO OUR FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE BASED ON INSTRUCTIONS STATE 009927.) MAHDI SAID SAUDIS WANTED TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN PRESENCE IN US MARKET AND WOULD NOT CONSIDER JOINT SERVICES; MOREOVER, HE SAID THAT

OTHER ARAB CIVIL AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED TO OPPOSE US EFFORT TO GET THEM TO MOUNT JOINT SERVICES. WHEN WE NOTED THAT JOINT SERVICES MIGHT ENABLE SAUDIA TO SERVE US MARKET EARLIER THAN IF THEY WENT ALONE, MAHDI REPEATED THAT SAUDIA WAS SEEKING PRIMARILY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN IDENTITY. COMPANY MIGHT CONSIDER OPENING WITH FREIGHT SERVICE (THROUGH LEASED PLANES), LEAVING PASSENGER TRAFFIC INITIALLY TO US CARRIER. IT IS IMPORTANT TO SAG TO GET RIGHTS ON BASIS OF WHICH IT CAN PLAN EXPANSION ITS SERVICES, HE SAID. MENTIONING THAT DELTA HAD ALSO MADE REQUEST FOR SAUDI SERVICE, MAHDI SAID BILATERAL WOULD ALSO ENABLE CAD TO REGULARIZE ENTRY OF US CARRIERS. HE STATED PRESENT SAG POLICY WAS TO ALLOW RIGHTS TO ONLY ONE NATIONAL CARRIER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLIEST POSSIBLE INDICATION IF END APRIL DATES SUGGESTED FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS ARE ACCEPTABLE, OR PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES.  
PORTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIR ROUTE APPLICATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 79947  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009